

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 5 as previously presented stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being obvious over JP'520.

Claim 5 has been amended to further include the technical features of “the primary grains of the exhaust gas treatment agent have a continuous columnar structure, and the exhaust gas treatment agent is obtained by baking a particulate calcium carbonate”.

Basis for a continuous columnar structure appears throughout the description of the invention including page 8, second full paragraph. The calcining or “baking” is discussed in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of the description.

The Examiner stated in the Office Action that JP'520 teaches baking (calcining) calcium hydroxide to prepare a harmful waste gas remover. Although JP'520 describes baking calcium hydroxide to prepare a harmful waste gas remover, it does not teach baking calcium *carbonate* to prepare a harmful waste gas remover.

In the present invention, the exhaust gas treatment agent is obtained by baking particulate calcium *carbonate* at a temperature of about 1000°C in an oxidizing atmosphere. During the baking step, since carbon dioxide is eliminated and an infinite number of micropores are formed inside, the primary grains of the obtained exhaust gas treatment agent have a continuous columnar structure.

This preparation method is not disclosed in JP'580 that is cited by the Examiner as an “evidentiary document”¹, and also the technical feature of “having a continuous columnar structure” is not disclosed in JP'580.

Moreover, the attached pictures are SEM images showing the exhaust gas treatment agents obtained by baking particulate calcium carbonate at temperatures of 900°C, 1000°C and 1100°C for 24 hours. As shown in these pictures, in the exhaust gas treatment agent obtained by baking particulate calcium carbonate at 900°C, some parts of having no continuous columnar

¹ U.S. 3,955,554.

HASEGAWA et al.
Appl. No. 10/586,960
July 23, 2009


structure are observed, while it is not observed in the exhaust gas treatment agents obtained by baking particulate calcium carbonate at 1000°C and 1100°C.

Therefore, the present invention is not be anticipated by or obvious over JP '520, and it is requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment I

SEM images of exhaust gas treatment agents (fracture surface) obtained by baking calcium carbonate at various temperatures.

